

TRIBUTE TO LT. GEN. JOHN E.  
MILLER

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 1997*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and the American public the distinguished record of service to our Nation by a fellow Missourian, Lt. Gen. John E. Miller. He is retired from the U.S. Army today after serving this great Nation for over 34 years.

Entering the U.S. Army in 1963 as an infantry officer, Lieutenant General Miller started his career by serving two tours in Vietnam, first as the commander of B Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and then as a district senior advisor. Advisory Team 68, Delta Regional Assistance Command. During his service in Vietnam, he earned a Silver Star, a Bronze Star with the "V" device, an Air Medal with the "V" device, a Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Lieutenant General Miller has served in many diverse assignments, including commanding general, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth; deputy commanding general for combined arms, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command; and commandant, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Other key assignments include: commander of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell; deputy commandant, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College; assistant division commander (Maneuver), 8th Infantry Division; assistant deputy chief of staff for combat developments, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, VA, commander, 1st Brigade, and later chief of staff, 9th Infantry Division (Motorized), Fort Lewis, WA.

In culmination of his long and illustrious career, Lieutenant General Miller served as deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, VA. In this capacity, he has been the driving force as the architect of the future for the Army, developing and integrating future concepts and requirements for doctrine, training, and combat developments for Army XXI to operate with joint, combined, multinational, and interagency organizations. Lieutenant General Miller provided vision and guidance in the development of the Army After Next Program and has been instrumental in integrating Army models and simulations into a dynamic, efficient, and effective program. He has led the effort in developing investment strategies which lay the foundation for the Army to grow into the early 21st century. In addition to his combat decorations, Lieutenant General Miller has earned the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Soldiers Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal. He has also earned the Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Mr. Speaker, there is not enough time in the day to thoroughly highlight the many contributions that this outstanding Missourian has made to our Army. He has dedicated his life

to our soldiers and our Nation. He is truly a leader of leaders.

**ALBANIA—DEMOCRACY AT A  
CROSSROADS**

**HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 1997*

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in March 1991, Albania held free elections for the first time in 45 years. Since then, Albania has adopted a democratic form of government, launched economic reforms, and tried to re-integrate itself into Europe. Today, however, Albanian democracy is at a crossroads.

During the cold war, the Communist Albanian Party of Labor, lead by Enver Hoxha, exercised total political control over the Albanian people and virtually cut off relations with the rest of the world. Large student demonstrations in late 1990 challenged the Communist Party's exclusive hold on power and forced the government to accept multiparty elections. Although the elections' fairness was questioned by outside observers, the Albanian Party of Labor, later renamed the Albanian Socialist Party, won two-thirds of the vote. Large-scale strikes and demonstrations ensued, forcing the Socialist Party to cede power in June 1991 to a coalition government. The coalition government comprises members of all political parties, including the Socialist Party and the Democratic Party.

The March 1992 general elections resulted in a resounding victory for the Democratic Party, which gained 62 percent of the vote. The Albanian Parliament, known as the People's Assembly, elected Sali Berisha to the presidency. The Democratic Party under President Berisha has led a strong and stable government and enacted numerous economic and human rights reforms. While Albania still remains the poorest country in Europe, its economy has grown significantly since 1989. Large, inefficient industries were abandoned and collectivized farms were swiftly dismantled. As a result, Albania's economic growth rates surpassed expectations. In 1993, Albania experienced 10-percent growth in gross domestic product [GDP], and agriculture output of 14 percent. The economy continued to grow at 8 percent in 1994, and 6 percent in 1995. Furthermore, in 1995, the Albanian parliament passed a law "on genocide and crimes against humanity" that facilitated the prosecution of crimes from the Communist period.

Albania's political and economic successes, however, are in jeopardy. Parliamentary elections were again held in May 1996. Amidst allegations of voter fraud, almost all opposition parties pulled out before the polls closed. The Organization for Security and Cooperation [OSCE], as well as other U.S. and international election observer organizations, noted "serious irregularities" during the vote, including voter fraud, ballot surfing, intimidation, and coercion. The European Parliament and the OSCE called for new elections and President Berisha agreed to a partial rerun of the election in 17 districts. The opposition demanded a full election and boycotted the partial rerun. The Democratic Party was re-elected with more than a two-thirds majority. In addition to

Albania's elections problems, in later 1996, Albania's high-risk investment plans, known as pyramid schemes, collapsed. The pyramid schemes, which promised exorbitant returns on investments, attracted over \$1 billion in private investment. The collapse of these schemes affected 800,000 Albanians, many of whom had invested their entire life savings. Following mass riots in January 1997, the Government seized the accounts of two investment groups, banned further pyramid schemes, and approved partial compensation for the investors.

Earlier this month, I had the honor to meet with the Speaker of the Albanian Assembly, Pjeter Arbneri, to discuss the upcoming election and the situations in Albania. Arbneri spent almost three decades in prison for his resistance to Albanian Communist dictator Enver Hoxha. Speaker Arbneri conveyed to me the urgency of the situation in Albania and the crisis facing Albanian democracy. He reassured me that the Democratic Party in Albania will honor the results of the June 29 elections. I was impressed by Speaker Arbneri's dedication to democracy and his strong commitment to the Albanian people. I believe that the United States should do all it can to ensure a democratic Albania.

As a result, I have introduced a resolution expressing congressional support for democracy in Albania. My resolution expresses the sense of the Congress that: First, the June 29 elections in Albania should be free and open and second, all political parties of Albania should honor the results of such elections. Through this resolution, the United States can show solidarity with the Albanian people during the June 29, 1997 elections.

A stable and democratic Albania is vital to the security of Europe and the United States. Should democracy falter in Albania, the world could be confronted with another Bosnia. The Albanian people need to know that America stands firmly behind their struggle to maintain and entrench democracy after years of Communist, totalitarian rule. Now, more than ever, the Congress of the United States needs to make clear its strong Commitment to a free and democratic Albania.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE ALCOHOL  
TAX EQUALIZATION ACT OF 1997**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 24, 1997*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Congress will adjourn for recess at the end of this week. By the time we return on July 10, beer and wine will have taken a toll in human life and injury, especially among teens and other young people, because these alcoholic beverages are less costly and have become a virtual part of the holiday itself. By blinking at beer and wine through the Tax Code, Congress will be actively complicit in this carnage.

That is why today I introduce the Alcohol Tax Equalization Act of 1997, a bill that would increase the taxes on beer and wine so that they are taxed according to their alcohol content at the same level as hard liquor. The bill creates a substance abuse prevention trust fund for alcohol prevention programs. The kinds of programs that work include cross-